



MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BOARD

Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2010

I. Call to Order

The Military Family Assistance Board (MFAB) Meeting was called to order by Secretary Lane Carson, Chairman, at 10:00 a.m. on December 10, 2010, at the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) Administrative Office, 1885 Wooddale Boulevard, 10th Floor, Baton Rouge.

II. Pledge/Opening Prayer

The pledge of allegiance was led by Senator Adley and prayer by Mrs. Wilkewitz.

III. Roll Call

Mrs. Scott conducted the roll call of Members. Board members present were: Secretary Lane Carson, Mr. Gary Hall, Mr. Brian Jakes, Mr. Mike McNaughton, Senator Robert Adley, Colonel Evans Spiceland, Representative Chris Hazel, and Mrs. Precilla Wilkewitz. A quorum was present.

LDVA staff in attendance was: Mr. Richard Blackwell, Third Party Administrator Point of Contact; Robin Keller, Press Secretary; David LaCerte, Deputy Secretary/Executive Counsel; and Charmagne Scott, Administrative Assistant.

IV. Remarks

Secretary Carson welcomed Representative Chris Hazel to the MFAB. Representative Hazel is the designee of the Louisiana House of Representatives, replacing Representative Joel Robideaux. Secretary Carson also proudly announced the passing of House Bill 1204 (Act 104 of 2010) that creates the "Support Our Veterans" license plate. Monetary proceeds from the license plate will be dedicated to the MFAF and veterans' programs.

V. Approval of July 23, 2010, Minutes

The minutes of the above referenced meeting had previously been distributed electronically to the MFAB Members for review. A motion was made by Mr. Jakes,

seconded by Ms. Wilkewitz, to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion unanimously passed, with Colonel Patti Woods, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Marshall Hevron absent for the vote.

VI. MFA Fund Report

Mr. Blackwell reviewed the current fund balance via handout. The starting balance as of July 1, 2010, was \$461,083.95; donations to date for FY 2010-2011 totaled \$17,053.52; expenditures to date were \$73,604.42; current fund balance as of December 9, 2010, was \$404,533.05.

A motion was made by Colonel Spiceland, seconded by Mr. Hall, to approve the fund report as presented. The motion unanimously passed, with Colonel Patti Woods, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Marshall Hevron absent for the vote.

VII. Executive Session – Need Based Claim Considerations

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilkewitz, seconded by Colonel Spiceland, to move from regular business discussion into Executive Session to consider three need-based claims. The motion unanimously passed, with Colonel Patti Woods, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Marshall Hevron absent for the vote.

A motion was made by Senator Adley, seconded by Mr. Jakes, to adjourn from Executive Session and resume regular business. The motion unanimously passed, with Colonel Patti Woods, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Marshall Hevron absent for the vote.

The following action was taken on Case #1: It was motioned by Mr. Jakes, seconded by Colonel Spiceland, to issue a need based award in the amount of \$750 to applicant for financial hardship caused by fire. By statute, the decision of the MFAB on this claim is final. The motion unanimously passed, with Colonel Patti Woods, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Marshall Hevron absent for the vote.

The following action was taken on Case #2: It was motioned by Mr. Jakes, seconded by Mrs. Wilkewitz, to issue a need based award in the amount of \$7500 to applicant for purchase of a vehicle to accommodate two car seats for children. By statute, the decision of the MFAB on this claim is final. The motion unanimously passed, with Colonel Patti Woods, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Marshall Hevron absent for the vote.

The following action was taken on Case #3: It was motioned by Senator Adley, seconded by Colonel Spiceland, to issue a need based award in the amount of \$7450 to applicant to cover repair costs for damages to the home. By statute, the decision of the MFAB on this claim is final. The motion unanimously passed, with

Colonel Patti Woods, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Marshall Hevron absent for the vote.

VIII. Media Report

Ms. Keller briefed on recent press releases promoting the MFAF to families of recently deployed and returning Guardsmen. Contact has also been made with CPAs and other tax firms to encourage donations to the MFAF.

Ms. Keller displayed the "Support Our Veterans" license plate, created as a result of Act 104 (2010). The one-time, \$25 application fee will go directly to the MFAF. The license plate will be available for purchase in early 2011.

IX. Other Business

Mr. LaCerte commented that the staff will soon be submitting proposed rule changes in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act due to the passing of recent legislation affecting the MFA program.

Senator Adley mentioned that other states have adopted the Veterans Honor Medal Program, mainly due to its great success in Louisiana.

Mr. Jakes announced that Academy Day will be held on December 23, 2010, at Cook Hotel on LSU Campus, sponsored by West Point.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Military Family Assistance Board, a motion was made by Mr. Jakes, seconded by Senator Adley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion unanimously passed, with Colonel Patti Woods, Mr. Sammy Guillory, and Mr. Marshall Hevron absent for the vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40am.

Minutes submitted by: Charmagne Scott, AA6

9-Feb-11

